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OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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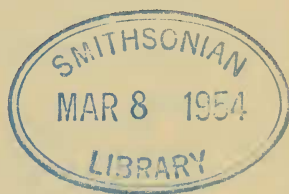
FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

VOLUME 3, Part 18. Pp. 229—238

OPINION 199

Suppression, under the Plenary Powers, of the generic name *Gladiolites* Barrande, 1850, and validation of the name *Retiolites* Barrande, 1850 (Class Graptolithina)



LONDON :

Printed by Order of the International Trust for
Zoological Nomenclature
and

Sold on behalf of the International Commission on Zoological
Nomenclature by the International Trust at its Publications Office
41, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7
1954

Price Three Shillings and Ninepence

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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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OPINION 199

SUPPRESSION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF THE GENERIC NAME "GLADIOLITES" BARRANDE, 1850, AND VALIDATION OF THE NAME "RETIOLITES" BARRANDE, 1850 (CLASS GRAPTOLITHINA)

RULING :—(1) The generic name *Gladiolites* Barrande, 1850, (Class Graptolithina) is hereby suppressed under the Plenary Powers for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy. (2) The name *Retiolites* Barrande, 1850 (gender of name : masculine) (type species, by monotypy : *Gladiolites geinitzianus* Barrande, 1850) is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 629. (3) The name *Gladiolites* Barrande, 1850, as suppressed under (1) above, is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 5. (4) The specific name *geinitzianus* Barrande, 1850, as published in the combination *Gladiolites geinitzianus*, is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* as Name No. 4.

I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Under cover of a letter dated 3rd July 1930, Dr. O. M. B. Bulman, Sc.D., F.R.S., then of the *Imperial College of Science and Technology* (*Royal School of Mines*), *South Kensington, London, S.W.7*, submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature a memorandum containing several requests for the use of the Plenary Powers in relation to the names of Graptolites. One of the applications so submitted contained a request for the suppression of the generic name *Gladiolites* Barrande, 1850 (Class Graptolithina) for the purpose of validating the name *Retiolites* Barrande, 1850.

2. This application, as finally settled, was as follows :—

PROPOSED SUSPENSION OF THE *RÈGLES* FOR *RETIOLITES*
BARRANDE, 1850 (CLASS GRAPTOLITHINA,
ORDER GRAPTOLOIDEA)¹

By O. M. B. BULMAN, Sc.D., F.R.S.

(University Lecturer in Palaeozoology, Cambridge University)

(Commission's Reference : Z.N.(S.)11)

Barrande in 1850 *Grapt. Bohême* : 68, erected the genus *Gladiolites* with the species *Gladiolites geinitzianus* Barrande as the genotype, by monotypy. He added a footnote (: 68) :—

Si l'affinité entre le nom générique *Gladiolites* et *Gladiolus*, désignant une plante, pouvait faire élever quelque objection contre le premier, nous proposerions de lui substituer celui de *Retiolites*.

The name *Retiolites* Barrande was used in the following year by Suess (1851, *Naturw. Abhandl. Haidinger* 4 (4) : 91) and has been adopted by all later authors with the exception of Gurley (1896, *J. Geol.* 4 : 79). There is no question of preoccupation, although it may be mentioned that at that time a fossil *Gladiolus* would presumably have been termed *Gladiolites*.²

As in the case of *Monograptus* Geinitz, 1852, the name *Retiolites* Barrande has been widely employed for a very considerable time, and the continued use of this originally alternative name can here lead to no supposed injustice, since Barrande is himself the author.

The name *Retiolites* Barrande, 1850, is widely employed in stratigraphical geology. The "Retiolites Shale" is a well-known, long-established and important stratigraphical unit in the Upper Silurian of Sweden and has been extensively quoted not only in Scandinavian literature but also in correlation with Europe and America. The name *Retiolites* Barrande figures also in nearly every elementary textbook of palaeontology and stratigraphy. In the opinion of the applicant, the strict application of the rules as applied to the present case would clearly result in greater confusion than uniformity.

The applicant, therefore, submits that the name *Retiolites* Barrande, 1850, with *Gladiolites geinitzianus* Barrande, 1850, as type, be placed

¹ The graptolites in the past have commonly been placed in the Class Hydrozoa of the Phylum Coelenterata. The systematic position of the group is, however, obscure and it has here been thought better, while provisionally retaining the graptolites in the Phylum Coelenterata, to treat this group as constituting a separate Class, Graptolithina. (int'd.) F. H. 31st January, 1945.

² Article 1(i) of the *Règles Internationales de la Nomenclature Zoologique* reads (in the substantive French text) : "La Nomenclature zoologique est indépendante de la Nomenclature botanique, en ce sens qu'un nom d'animal ne peut être rejeté pour ce seul motif qu'il est identique à un nom de plante".

in the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* under suspension of the rules and that the name *Gladiolites* Barrande, 1850, be suppressed.

II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

3. The memorandum furnished by Dr. Bulman in 1930 was communicated in December 1931 to the members of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature by the then Secretary (the late Dr. C. W. Stiles) in Circular Letter No. 221. This action led to the submission of the four comments on this case set out in the immediately following paragraphs.

4. *Comment by Lt. Col. J. Stephenson* : The following comment was furnished in a letter dated 5th March 1932 by Lt. Col. J. Stephenson, a Member of the International Commission :—

The authority to whom I should naturally have submitted the cases detailed in your Circular Letter 221 (Subject : Suspension, *Monograptus*, *Retiolites*, *Graptolithus*) is Dr. Bulman himself, who works within a stone's throw of this Museum [British Museum (Natural History)]. As he raises the cases, we may take it that we know his answer beforehand.

Captain A. K. Totton, the Assistant Keeper here in the Museum in charge of Coelenterata, informs me that he would himself have no hesitation in taking Dr. Bulman's opinion ; and, having been through the names myself as they are presented in your letter, I beg to give my own informal recommendation in the same sense also.

5. *Comment by Dr. F. A. Bather* : In a letter to Dr. Stiles, dated 21st March 1932, the late Dr. F. A. Bather (*Keeper, Department of Zoology, British Museum (Natural History)*) wrote : " I entirely agree with Bulman's proposals ".

6. *Comment by Dr. Gertrude L. Elles* : In a letter dated 25th February 1932 (communicated by Dr. Bather), Dr. Gertrude L. Elles (*Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge University*) wrote :—

I am entirely in sympathy with Bulman's proposals I consider very definitely that it would be a very great pity to attempt to re-establish *Lomatoceras* for *Monograptus*, since the latter is so well established in literature and perfectly well understood. I also feel the same with regard to *Retiolites*.

7. *Comment by Dr. Karl Jordan* : In a letter dated 22nd May 1932, Dr. Karl Jordan (*Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts.*) wrote : “*Retiolites* versus *Gladiolites*. The latter name has priority, and its re-adoption can lead to no confusion”.

8. The present case was placed on the Agenda for the Session of the International Commission then about to be held at Lisbon in Circular Letter 309 issued to members of the Commission in March 1935. Owing to the absence through ill-health of the Secretary (Dr. Stiles) and the fact that in consequence the papers relating to this case were not available in Lisbon, it was not possible for the International Commission to deal with this case on that occasion.

9. In 1938 the documents relating to this and other current cases were transferred to the care of Mr. Francis Hemming, who in October 1936 had been elected Secretary to the Commission on the retirement of Dr. Stiles. On receipt, the documents relating to this case were given the Registered Number Z.N.(S.)11. It had not been found possible to make any further progress with this case when in September 1939 the records of the Commission were evacuated from London to the country as a precaution against the risk of destruction through air raids. The Secretariat in London was re-opened in 1942 and steps were immediately taken to establish the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* as a means for bringing to the attention of zoologists applications submitted to the International Commission for decision. Work was at once started on outstanding applications with a view to arranging for their publication in the newly established *Bulletin*. After an exchange of correspondence between the Secretary and Dr. Bulman, the terms of the present application were finally settled on 24th August 1944. This application was sent to the printer in September 1944, but, owing to paper rationing, shortage of labour at the printing works and similar causes, publication did not actually take place until 26th June 1946. (Bulman, 1946, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 166.) The publication of this application in the *Bulletin* elicited the comments set out in the three immediately following paragraphs.

10. *Comment by Dr. Th. Mortensen* : In a letter dated 20th April 1947, the late Dr. Th. Mortensen (*Universitetets*

Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen) indicated his support for this application by writing the word "Yes".

11. *Comment by Dr. Charles E. Decker* : On 13th June 1947, Dr. J. Brookes Knight (*Research Associate in Paleontology, United States National Museum, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.*) at that time Chairman of the Joint Committee on Zoological Nomenclature for Paleontology in America, wrote : "As Chairman, I called these propositions to the attention of Dr. Rudolf Ruedemann and Dr. Charles E. Decker, the two recognized American authorities on the Graptolites. I enclose the originals of their replies". The comment by Dr. Decker (*University of Oklahoma, U.S.A.*) on the present case was given in a letter dated 2nd August 1946, the relevant portion of which reads as follows : "The name *Retiolites* Barrande is now clearly understood and is in general use. In this case also, I think that the older generic term *Gladiolites* might well be suppressed".

12. *Comment by Dr. Rudolf Ruedemann* : In a letter dated 29th November 1946, Dr. Rudolf Ruedemann (*Albany, N.Y., U.S.A.*) wrote : "In answer to your question I may say that I fully agree with the proposed suspension of the *Règles* for *Retiolites*".

13. On 14th September 1947 a notice of the possible use, by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, of its Plenary Powers in the present case was issued to the serial publications prescribed by the Ninth International Congress of Zoology, Monaco, 1913. The publication of this notice elicited no objections to the action proposed.

III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

14. The present application was considered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at the Thirteenth Meeting of its Paris Session held at the Sorbonne in the Amphithéâtre Louis-Liard on Monday, 26th July 1948 at 17.30 hours.

The following is an extract from the portion of the Official Record of the Proceedings of the International Commission, setting out the decision reached by it in regard to this case at the foregoing meeting (Paris Session, 13th Meeting, Conclusion 23) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 378—379) :—

THE COMMISSION agreed :—

(1) to use their plenary powers :—

(a) to suppress the generic name *Gladiolites* Barrande, 1850, for the purposes of Article 25 but not for those of Article 34 ;

(b) to validate the generic name *Retiolites* Barrande, 1850, with *Gladiolites geinitzianus* Barrande, 1850, as type species ;

(2) to place the generic name *Retiolites* Barrande, 1850 (Class Graptolithina, Order Graptoloidea), validated as above and with the above species as its type species, on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* ;

(3) to place the generic name *Gladiolites* Barrande, 1850, on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* ;

(4) to place the trivial name *geinitzianus* Barrande, 1850 (as published in the binominal combination *Gladiolites geinitzianus*) on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* ;

(5) to render an *Opinion* recording the decisions specified in (1) to (4) above.

15. The following are the original references for the names which appear in the decision set out in the immediately preceding paragraph :—

geinitzianus, *Gladiolites*, Barrande, 1850, *Grapt. Bohême* : 68

Gladiolites Barrande, 1850, *Grapt. Bohême* : 68

Retiolites Barrande, 1850, *Grapt. Bohême* : 68

16. The gender of the generic name *Retiolites* Barrande, 1850, referred to in the decision quoted in paragraph 14 is masculine.

17. The decision taken in this case was reported to, and approved by, the Section on Nomenclature of the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, at its Fifth Meeting held on 26th July 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 5 : 106).

18. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was concurred in by the sixteen (16) Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners present at the Paris Session of the International Commission, namely :—

Beltrán *vice* Cabrera ; Boschma ; Bradley ; di Caporiacco ; Hemming ; Hindle *vice* Jordan ; Jorge *vice* do Amaral ; Kirby *vice* Stoll ; Lemche *vice* Dymond ; Mansour *vice* Hankó ; Metcalf *vice* Peters ; Riley *vice* Calman ; Rode ; Spärck *vice* Mortensen ; van Straelen *vice* Richter ; Usinger *vice* Vokes.

19. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was dissented from by no Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner present at the Paris Session.

20. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word "trivial" appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

21. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

22. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion One Hundred and Ninety-Nine* (199) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London this Fifteenth day of November, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Three.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING